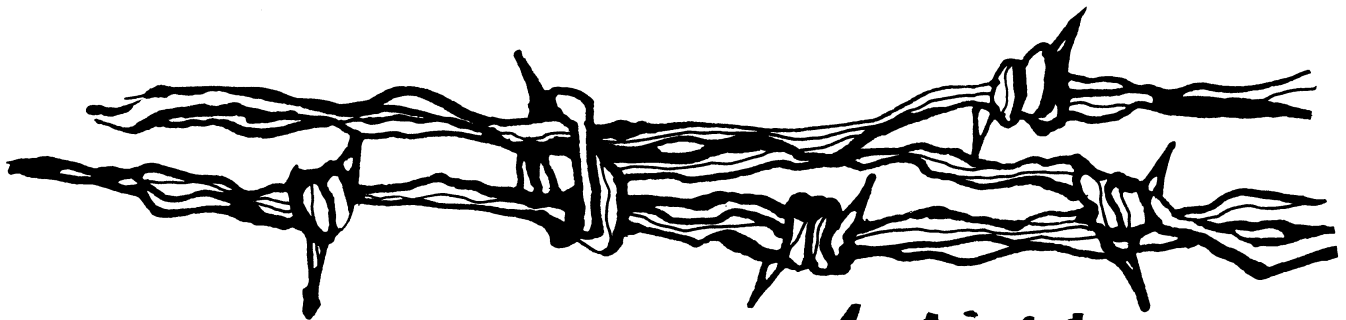


**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**4856 WAYNE ROAD**  
**CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202**  
**(717) 267-2266**

EMAIL: [info@solomonslutheran.org](mailto:info@solomonslutheran.org)  
WEB SITE: [www.solomonslutheran.org](http://www.solomonslutheran.org)  
FACEBOOK SEARCH: Solomon's Lutheran Facebook



*Turn from your sins*

M A R K 1 : 1 5

*"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."*

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**FEBRUARY 21, 2021**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2021**  
**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
the keeper of the covenant,  
the source of steadfast love,  
our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water,  
**pour out your mercy over us.**  
**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**  
**Rebuild what we have ruined**  
**and mend what we have torn.**  
**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**  
**Make us alive in the Spirit**  
**to follow in the way of Jesus,**  
**as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**  
**Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails.  
The promise rests on grace:  
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,  
the wisdom and power of God,  
your sins are ✝ forgiven, and God remembers them no more.  
Journey in the way of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (isometric)* (ELW 504)**  
**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

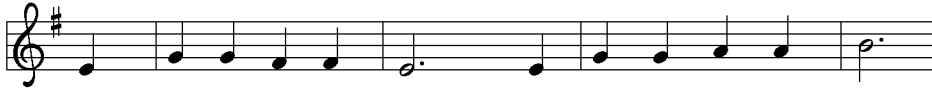
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Reprinted under OneLicense #A-719004

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

**WAYNE DALE**

## FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

A reading from Genesis.

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10**

*(Read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)*

<sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness,

O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from 1 Peter.

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

## GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Bill**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Thy Holy Wings* (ELW 613)  
Thy Holy Wings



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,  
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast  
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.  
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.  
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite  
Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune  
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator

Reprinted under OneLicense #A-719004

*Please stand if you are able.*

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** *(please respond)*

*P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**



## OFFERTORY

### Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature. The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

## OFFERING PRAYER

Faithful God,  
you walk beside us in desert places,  
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.  
Accompany us in this meal,  
that we may pass over from death to life  
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san-na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus draws the whole world to himself.  
Come to this meal and be fed.

## **COMMUNION**

*Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher, maintaining your distance and keeping your mask on. Move your mask to eat the bread and drink the wine. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Return to your seat with your mask on.*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of steadfast love,  
at this table you gather your people  
into one body for the sake of the world.  
Send us in the power of your Spirit,  
that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

# SENDING SONG *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (ELW 325)

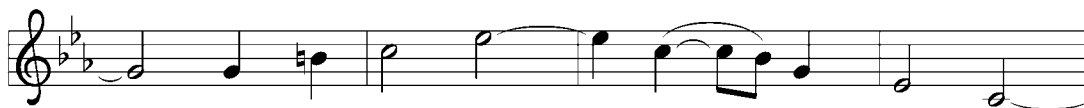
## I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## SILENT PRAYER

## POSTLUDE

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).  
Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

## SERVING TODAY

Pastor ..... Rev. Bill Nienstedt  
Home Phone Number ..... 717-264-3757  
Email Address ..... [Pastor@solomonslutheran.org](mailto:Pastor@solomonslutheran.org)  
Church Office Email Address ..... [office@solomonslutheran.org](mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org)  
Organist ..... Doug Mummert  
Head Usher ..... Sam Mull  
Acolyte ..... Katy Nienstedt  
Lector..... Sam Mull  
Securing Offering ..... Margie Dale & Bernie Harris  
Communion Set-Up..... Margie Dale  
Communion Clean-Up ..... Margie Dale  
Bread Cubes ..... Margie Dale  
Attendance last Sunday ..... 29

Stewardship Thought - **February 21, 2021** (First Sunday in Lent, Year B)

*“All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.” – Psalm 25:10*

God’s commandments and Jesus’ teachings are not optional for Christians; they are given for the purpose of our growth in Christ. In turn we share Christ’s love with our neighbors and steward carefully all of God’s good gifts.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God and in loving honor of Mom, Nana, Patsy Wildeson’s birthday February 16<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday! Given by Doug, Zoe, Brandon, Erin, Eli, Hattie, Jared and Emma.

**Welcome Visitors!** We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

**2021 Altar Flowers Chart**—Kimberly will **not** be posting the new altar flowers chart as usual. INSTEAD, please call her to reserve your special Sunday! **Flowers will now be purchased from Royer’s Florist in Chambersburg. Please note the price will change to \$35.** For the price of two flower arrangements, you can give glory to God with the beauty of His creation on the altar; commemorate a loved one; and if you choose, have your flowers given to someone who is homebound or recovering from surgery or illness.

**Prayer requests** for the following persons *Larry Lehman, Jere Brehm, Lee Locke, Jennifer Haugie, Bud Armstrong, Gertie Reichard, Joyce Wildeson, Manny Negron, Jerry and Peggy Tyson, Sue Ressler, Eva Stahl, Clayton Schwartz and the Quincy Village Residents, Amos Egolf, Dee Dee Fox, Jody Swartz, Quentin, Linda Small Naus, Barbara Socks, Denise Bowen, Jack Hess, Sylvia Wenger, Patsy Wagner, Anne English, Millie Kulkusky, Jackson, Bonnie Hudson.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.

If you would like to sign up for **altar flowers** for a Sunday during the month of March or April, the following dates are still available: 3/7 & 4/18. Please email or call Kimberly ([office@solomonslutheran.org](mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org) / 717 267-2266).

**Notice of Congregational Meeting:** The annual congregation meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, February 28, 2021. All voting members are encouraged to attend. We are hoping to be able to have a Zoom video of the meeting as well. A link will be provided before the meeting. In addition to a review of the 2020 Annual Report, we will review and approve the 2021 budget, elect new council members, and review a proposal for new carpet in the sanctuary.

**Annual Reports and 2021 Member Directories:** Will be available on Sundays during worship and available for pick-up in the Fellowship Center during office hours—Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Note that annual reports will not be mailed but will be available by email.

**Thank you** to Solomon's members who graciously contribute to the church via their IRA. Please note, however, that your financial institution may not always indicate the name of the contributor on the check. Please contact Janice McEntire at 717 264-3702 if you wish to have your semi-annual or year-end statements reflect your contribution.

If you need to email Kimberly please continue to use [office@solomonslutheran.org](mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org) or [kimberly@solomonslutheran.org](mailto:kimberly@solomonslutheran.org). Thank you!

**Glossy Magazines** - The magazine recycling company's processing equipment for the Ronald McDonald House has been damaged and is in need of repair. Due to the pandemic, the repair is not possible for the foreseeable future; therefore, we are not collecting glossy magazines at this time.

**Power Packs:** With school back in session, the Power Packs program has now resumed. Currently, eight families have been identified at New Franklin Elementary School in need of food assistance. You can donate vegetable or fruit cups like last year. Donations of cash are also welcome if you are unable to shop or attend church due to the pandemic.

**Bulletin Announcement Forms** are located in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

**Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes** are available in the library for anyone to read.



**FEBRUARY 21, 2021**  
**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**



*God's mercy conquers evil.*

### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 1:9-15</b>	<b>Temptation of Jesus</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Genesis 9:8-17</b>	<b>God's promise to Noah</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 Peter 3:18-22</b>	<b>Suffering for doing right</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2 Samuel 24:10-17</b>	<b>Judgment on David's sin</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Titus 3:1-11</b>	<b>Maintain good deeds</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Hebrews 4:14-16</b>	<b>Jesus is the great high priest</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 25:1-10</b>	<b>Prayer for guidance</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 8:31-38</b>	<b>Jesus predicts his death</b>

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Psalm 25:6 (NRSV)*

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Gracious God, thank you for entering our lives and our world to confront all that is opposed to your reign of mercy through Christ, your Beloved Son. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, with this gift of food, let us remember your steadfast love and mercy that gives us life that we may live with hope. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God lead you in truth and teach you the way of Christ our Lord. (Psalm 25:5)

### **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How would you describe evil?
- Tell or think about a time you felt tested or tempted to do something wrong.
- Jesus was tested by Satan. How is Jesus' confronting Satan in the wilderness a story of hope?

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 1:9-15.

This text is a fitting beginning for the season of Lent. At Jesus' baptism God intervenes by opening up the heavens and speaking of Jesus as God's Beloved Son. Jesus is thrown into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to confront Satan, the personification of all that opposes God's reign. Jesus endures, and he is cared for by the angels of God. Jesus then begins his own public ministry following the arrest of John the Baptist. John's experience is a precursor to Jesus' own betrayal and arrest to fulfill all that God intends to do through the Beloved Son. And, then, Jesus goes out to do the work of the kingdom, the reign of God that has not been stopped by Satan and will not be stopped, ever. The preaching is simple: repent and believe in the good news of God's reign. Repentance is not about remorse but about turning around and going in another direction, toward God and what God can and will do. This Lent, we are reminded to trust the work of God that will defeat everything opposed to God's rule of steadfast love and mercy. How will you repent and focus on the reign of God in your life and in the world?

***Pray:* Almighty and merciful God, help us to trust your reign present now and forevermore through Jesus, your Beloved Son and our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

The story of Noah and the flood is a difficult story to grasp. The point of the story is that God's demand for justice (the flood) is finally outdone by God's mercy (a new beginning for creation for those on the ark). Justice does not stand alone. It needs mercy, especially in our world where no human has the wisdom of God to judge. Do you know someone who needs a word of mercy? Write a note to that person and pray for them this week.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Lent is a season filled with traditions that focus on discipline and discipleship. Choose a devotional space in your home. Consider laying out a purple cloth (the color for repentance and Lent) and place a candle and Bible on it. Read the *Daily Bible Readings*. Use the *Prayer for the Week* and add your own prayers. End the time by saying:  
**Remember that you are God's, and to God you shall return.**